

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended) A method for utilizing a data format preference of a device, comprising:

connecting a device to a network having a data repository;

sending a device format preference to said data repository in response to said
connecting when the device is connected to the network at a time the device is initially
connected to the network, the device format preference including format information for
needed data;

utilizing, on the network, the device format preference from the data repository in
preparing the needed data for transmission to said device; and

sending the prepared needed data to said device.

2. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising saving
the device format preference in the data repository.

3. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the device format preference is
sent with a device identifier.

4. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the device format preference is
saved with a network address of the device to be used as a device identifier by the data
repository.

5. (currently amended) ~~The method of claim 1~~ A method for utilizing a data format preference of a device, comprising:
connecting a device to a network having a data repository;
sending a device format preference to said data repository when the device is connected to the network, the device format preference including format information for needed data;
utilizing, on the network, the device format preference from the data repository in preparing the needed data for transmission to said device; and
sending the prepared needed data to said device, wherein the device connected to the network sends the device format preference each time it is connected to the network.

6. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the network is an automatic configuration network, so that any device connected thereto sends the device format preference upon initial connection to the network.

7. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
sending a request for specific information by the device;
extracting, by the data repository from data storage, specific information;
retrieving the device format preference by the data repository using a device identifier;
formatting the specific information according to the device format preference; and
sending the specific information over the network to the device from the data repository.

8. (previously presented) The method according to claim 7, wherein the device is an electronic device, and the request for the specific information and device format preference are embodied as one or more data packets.

9. (original) The method according to claim 7, wherein the data repository is an extensible Markup Language (XML) data repository.

10. (previously presented) The method according to claim 7 wherein the data repository includes an extensible Markup Language (XML) database in communication with an Extensible Stylesheet Language Transformation (XSLT) engine in communication with the network.

11. (previously presented) The method according to claim 7, wherein the request for information is in an Extensible Stylesheet Language (XSL) stylesheet.

12. (previously presented) The method according to claim 7, wherein the network is an In-Home Digital Network (IHDN).

13. (original) The method according to claim 7, wherein the device is any one of the group comprising a personal computer, personal digital assistant, television, video cassette recorder, personal video recorder, remote control, and audio system, and the specific information requested is electronic program guide information.

14. (currently amended) A method for recognizing a preferred format of a device comprising:

connecting the device to an In-Home Digital Network (IHDN) network that has an extensible Markup Language (XML) data repository;

sending, in response to said connecting at a time the device is initially connected to the network or, by the device connected to the network the device format preference each time said device is connected to the network, an Extensible Stylesheet Language (XSL) stylesheet request for excerpted electronic programming guide (EPG) information, including a device format preference from the device, over the IHDN network to an Extensible Stylesheet Language Transformation (XSLT) engine in communication with the XML data repository; and

utilizing, on the network, said device format preference from the XML data repository in preparing data for transmission to said device.

15. (previously presented) The method of claim 14, further comprising extracting the requested excerpted EPG information by the XSLT engine from the XML data repository;

formatting the excerpted EPG information in accordance with said device format preference; and

sending the excerpted EPG information by the XSLT engine to the device over the IHDN network.

16. (canceled)

17. (currently amended) The system of claim 2016, wherein the data repository extracts the specific information of the request, formats the specific information in accordance with said data format preference, and transmits the specific information over the communication network to the device.

18. (currently amended) The system according to claim 2016, wherein the data repository is an extensible Markup Language (XML) data repository, which includes an XML database in connection with an Extensible Stylesheet Language Transformation (XSLT) engine, and the request for specific information and the device format preference are in an Extensible Stylesheet Language (XSL) stylesheet.

19. (currently amended) The system according to claim 2016, wherein the network is an In-Home Digital Network (IHDN).

20. (currently amended) ~~The system according to claim 16~~ A system for using a format preferred for a device, the system comprising:

a network that includes a data repository;

said device, connected to the network and having a data format preference; and

a data packet containing a request for specific information, said data packet including said data format preference, wherein said data packet is prepared by the device and transmitted over the network to said data repository.

said network being configured for using said data packet, in preparing the specific information for transmission to said device, said data format preference stored by said data repository, wherein the specific information requested is electronic programming guide information.